AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.- 26. (Cancelled)

27.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first sub-conference node;

a second sub-conference node;

a storage device comprising a party information table to select information to be transmitted to the first sub-conference node and to the second sub conference node and to store mixing parameters;

a conference controller, to restrict access to the party information table;

a mixing controller; and

a mixer, to select at least a first portion of conference information and a second portion of conference information received from the first sub-conference node and the second sub-conference node based on the party information table and the mixing controller, and to transmit the first portion of information to the first sub-conference node at a first time slot and to transmit the second portion of information to the second sub-conference node at a second time slot,

wherein changing information in the party information table will dynamically change the mixer operation.

28.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27, further comprising:

a plurality of voice activity detectors to determine if the first sub-conference node or the second sub-conference node is speaking;

wherein the results of the plurality of voice activity detectors are received at the mixing controller, and wherein the mixing controller transfers the results to the mixer.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28, wherein the first portion of information is selected by a processor based on audio activity sensed by the <u>plurality of</u> voice activity detector<u>s</u>.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein the first portion of information is to be selected by a processor based on an attribute received from the first sub-conference node.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the first portion of information is to be modified by the processor and the second portion of information is to be unmodified based on a change in the attribute received from the first sub-conference node.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, further comprising:
a third sub-conference node,
wherein the third sub-conference node is coupled to a single processor during a conference and the single processor selects at least a portion of information received from the three sub-conference nodes, and transmits that selected portion of information to the three sub-conference nodes.

33. (Currently Amended) A mixer, comprising:
an input to receive information from at least two sub-conference nodes;
an output to transmit information to the at least two sub-conference nodes;
a storage device <u>comprising a party information table to select information to be transmitted to the first sub-conference node and to the second sub conference node and to store mixing parameters</u>;
<u>a conference controller, to restrict access to the party information table;</u>
~~to contain attributes of each sub-conference node;~~ and
a processor to select at least a first portion of conference information and a second portion of conference information received from the at least two sub-conference nodes based on the mixing parameters ~~attributes~~ of each sub-conference node and a mixing controller, and to transmit the first portion of information to a first of at least two sub-conference nodes at a first

time slot and to transmit the second portion of information to a second of at least two sub-conference nodes at a second time slot.

34.   (Previously Presented) The mixer of claim 33, further comprising a voice activity detector coupled to the at least two sub-conference nodes and the input to provide conference information from at least one of the sub-conference nodes to the mixer if audio activity is detected at the at least two sub-conference nodes.

35.   (Previously Presented) The mixer of claim 34, wherein conference information is not provided at the output for at least one of the sub-conference nodes when audio activity is not detected by the voice activity detector from that sub-conference node.

36.   (Previously Presented) The mixer of claim 33, wherein the attributes are stored in a party information table.

37.   (Previously Presented) The mixer of claim 33, wherein the storage device is random access memory.

38.   (Previously Presented) The mixer of claim 33, wherein the storage device is a magnetic disk.

39.   (Previously Presented) The mixer of claim 33, further comprising a second processor to communicate with the storage device to vary attributes contained in the storage device.

40. – 49.   (Cancelled)